

DRAFT

**Newport City Planning Commission
Minutes**

Tuesday January 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Commission Members: John Monette
Vacant
Dennis Chenette
Chris Vachon
Mareo Oldacre

Zoning Administrator: Erik Voegtlin

Members Present: Chris Vachon
John Monette
Dennis Chenette

Others Present: Paul Monette
Erik Voegtlin
Karen Geraghty NVDA

Absent Members: Mareo Oldecre

1. **Call to order:** 7:00 made by John Monette
2. **Approve the minutes of the planning commission meeting held on December 15, 2020:** 07:05 motion made by Dennis Chenette and seconded by Chris Vachon
3. **City Plan Development:** John Monette discussed putting pen to paper for vision statements. Karen Geraghty from NVDA added what she needed after the product was finished and put all the elements together. John Monette put together a rough draft for the housing element and Karen Geraghty noted that some data from the survey could be included in the final product. NVDA commended group on the ability of getting the survey out in the midst of a pandemic. A big picture is needed to mold everything together was added by NVDA. John Monette noted that there may be some zoning issues, but only small changes would be necessary. Zoning administrator added that we need to have one of the elements finalized by the end of the month. NVDA suggested using a working document that everyone can expand on and then SE group and NVDA can put something together. The vision needs to adhere to who the audience is and the economics, the people and management and development. The survey gives a good basis for what the visions statement should encapsulate. NVDA commented about making the vision about the people that live here and not for visitors as the old vision statement is more for. The new vision should be for the residents in the town. Discussion of developing in the downtown

area and the benefits of doing so. Question about air BnB in the bylaws and after further investigation it was found that there is no bylaw that specifies any regulations of an air BnB. More investigation was found by the zoning administrator that there is a conditional use for short term room rental which follows under the broad specifics that air BnB would fall under. Conversation about short term rental was brought up due to bringing in more people into town so that they can work and play remotely. More talk about the open meeting law and how it is a grey area of using google docs for trying to write up a vision statement. Sharing of information must be discussed and made during the next meeting. Looking into sharing docs online for public comments using google drive. Chris Vachon used the share screen feature to get some bullet points down for a new vision statement. NVDA commented that the survey needs more residential outreach for adding to the municipal plan. Document was shared with committee and people will spend the next two weeks making comments for suggestions to the vision statement.

4. **Set Meeting schedule for the year:** John Monette called for a motion to set the meeting schedule for the year. Chris Vachon made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for the year, seconded by Dennis Chenette.
5. **Old business:** None
6. **New business:** Deadline for solicitation is Jan 8th with 1 candidate for the vacancy of the Planning commission.
7. **Set draft agenda for next regularly scheduled meeting:** Set next meeting for January 19th at 7:00pm.
8. **Adjourn:** 9:23p Time John Monette called for a motion to adjourn, made by Dennis Chenette and seconded by Chris Vachon.